(a) whether it is a fact that country loses approximately 18 per cent of its crop yield valued Rs. 90,000 crores due to pest attacks each year according to rating agency CARE;

(b) if so, whether Government agrees with the findings of CARE; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the crop yield due to pest attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the report of Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE) on Indian Pesticides Industry, the country loses approximately 18% of the crop yield valued at Rs.90,000 crore due to pest attack each year. The report has cited 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals (2002) on 'Production and Availability of Pesticides'.

(b) It is estimated that crop losses due to insect pest, diseases and weeds range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack.

(c) To prevent/reduce crop losses due to pests the Government has been implementing a scheme, namely, "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection strategy through Farmers' Field Schools organized by 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory. Suitable interventions for plant protection are also made through other schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission etc.

Recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee Report

1697. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority had approved the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 based on the recommendation of above report;

(d) if so, whether steps will be taken to consult the competent authority of Kerala before implementing the recommendations of the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government of India constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan to suggest an implementable action plan for reviving rural cooperative credit institutions in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, Government of India

has approved a Revival Package for Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure. Legal and Institutional Reforms approved for implementation under the Revival package, *inter alia*, includes carrying out amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on the lines suggested by the Task Force.

(d) to (f) Vaidyanathan Committee Report and its recommendations were discussed at a meeting of the State Chief Ministers on 09 September 2005 and with the Finance and Cooperation Ministers of selected State Governments on 29 September 2005. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force and deliberations held in these meetings, Government of India approved a Revival Package for Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure and announced to all the States and UTs on 05 January 2006. The Revival Package is now being implemented in various States and UTs that have accepted the same for implementation. The Government of Kerala did not accept the Revival Package and hence it is not being implemented in the State of Kerala.

Allocation for agriculture and dairy development to Andhra Pradesh

1698. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent/to be spent on agriculture in the country during the last three years and the current year and its percentage share in the Gross Domestic Product; and

(b) the amount allocated/proposed to be allocated to Andhra Pradesh for agriculture and dairy development during the said period and achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Investment in agriculture and allied sector in the country during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (for which data is available) with its percentage share in GDP is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Details of major schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 to 2009-10 is given in the statement-II.

Statement-I

Year	Investment in Agriculture and allied (Rs. crore)	Investment in agriculture sector as a percentage of . GDP at constant prices
New series (at 1999-2000 prices)		
2005-06	66065	2.5
2006-07	73285	2.6
2007-08*	79328	2.5

*Quick estimates

As per latest figures available.